

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claim 8, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 1 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A fixture system comprising:

a base having at least one set of support brackets;

a first support member, adapted for connection to at least one of the support brackets,

wherein the support member includes a shaft having a threaded coupling joined thereto;

a first connector, extending through one of the set of support brackets and the shaft, for securing the support member to the one set of support brackets;

a rod having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end is coupled to the coupling;

and

a housing including a housing coupling, wherein the second end of the rod is coupled within the housing coupling, and wherein the housing further includes a u-shaped channel affixed to the housing coupling.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one set of support brackets is welded to the base.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one set of support brackets each include:

a thru-hole; and

a fastener, positioned proximate the thru-hole.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the connector includes a pair of flared handles and a threaded portion for engaging the thru-hole of the one set of support brackets and threadedly securing to the fastener.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the base includes a threaded aperture.

6. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the coupling is welded to the shaft.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the rod is threaded.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the channel is metal.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the housing coupling is threaded and is welded to the channel.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for securing the second end of the rod to the housing coupling.

13. (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising a second support member coupled to the housing, wherein the second support member also includes a shaft having a coupling joined thereto.

14. (Previously Amended) A fixture system comprising:

a base having at least one set of support brackets;

a first support member, adapted for connection to at least one of the support brackets,

wherein the support member includes a shaft having a threaded coupling joined thereto;

a first connector, extending through one of the set of support brackets and the shaft, for securing the support member to the one set of support brackets;

a rod having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end is coupled to the coupling;

a housing that engages the rod, wherein the housing comprises:

a channel; and

a housing coupling affixed to the channel;

a second support member coupled to the housing, wherein the second support member also includes a shaft having a coupling joined thereto; and

a second connector for securing the second support member to the housing.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a second rod having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the second rod is coupled to the coupling of the second support member.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising means for locking the first end of the second rod to the coupling of the second support member.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a tool coupled to the second end of the second rod.

18. (Previously Cancelled)

19. (Previously Canceled)

20. (Previously Canceled)

21. (Previously Canceled)

22. (Previously Amended) A fixture system comprising:

a first rod having a first end and a second end;

a housing having a channel and a housing coupling, wherein the second end of the first rod is coupled to the housing coupling;

a first support member having a shaft and a coupling, wherein the shaft is coupled within the channel of the housing; and

a second rod having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the second rod is coupled to the coupling of the support member.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising means for locking the rods to the couplings.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising means for locking the support member to the housing.

25. (Previously Cancelled)

26. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising:

a base; and

a second support member having a shaft and a coupling, wherein the first end of the first rod is coupled to the coupling of the second support member, and wherein the shaft of the second support member is coupled to the base.

27. (Previously Cancelled)

28. (Previously Cancelled)

29. (Previously Cancelled)

30. (Previously Cancelled)

31. (Previously Cancelled)

32. (Previously Cancelled)

33. (Previously Cancelled)

34. (Previously Cancelled)

35. (Previously Cancelled)

36. (Previously Cancelled)

37. (Previously Cancelled)

38. (Previously Amended) A base, comprising:

an elongate body having a first end and a second end;

a first set of support brackets positioned adjacent the first end and a second set of support brackets positioned adjacent the second end, wherein each set of support brackets includes a thru-hole and a fastener affixed proximate the thru-hole; and

a threaded aperture in the elongate body between the first and second ends.

39. (Previously Cancelled)

Serial No. 09/368,011

Page 7 of 9

40. (Previously Amended) A base, comprising:

an elongate body having a first end and a second end;

a first set of support brackets positioned adjacent the first end and a second set of support brackets positioned adjacent the second end, wherein each set of support brackets includes a thru-hole;

a threaded aperture in the elongate body between the first and second ends; and

a base plate assembly, wherein the base plate assembly includes:

a base plate;

a base coupling affixed to the base plate; and

a threaded segment for engaging the threaded aperture in the base.

41. (Original) The base plate assembly of claim 40, wherein the base plate comprises a plurality of mounting slots for mounting a tool thereon.

42. (Previously Cancelled)

43. (Previously Cancelled)

44. (Previously Cancelled)

45. (Previously Cancelled)